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SUBJECT: MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA: SECRETARY

RICHARDSON' S APPEARANCE ON MEET THE PRESS.

TRANSMITTED HERewith IS THE TEXT OF UPI ITEMS 205 AND
222 DATED APRIL 1 ST FROM PHNOM PENH AND WASHINGTON.

QUOTE

PHNOM PENH (UPI) -- COMMUNIST FORCES STORMED GOVERNMENT
POSITIONS DEFENDING THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF TAKEO SUNDAY
IN WHAT MILITARY SOURCES BELIEVE MAY BE THE OPENING OF AN
ALL- OUT ATTACK ON THAT BESIEGED TOWN.

THE HIGH COMMAND SAID AT LEAST 13 GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS WERE
WOUNDED IN THE MORNING MORTAR AND INFANTRY ATTACK AT TAKEO,
55 MILES SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH ON EMBATTLE HIGHWAY 2.

HEAVY FIGHTING ALSO WAS REPORTED ON HIGHWAY 4, PHNOM PENH' S
VITAL LINK WITH THE SEA; ON HIGHWAY 1 LINKING THE CAPITAL
WITH SAIGON AND ALONG CAMBODIA' S MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLY
ARTERY, THE MEKONG RIVER.

(IN NEIGHBORING SOUTH VIETNAM, UPI CORRESPONDENT KENNETH F.

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ENGLADE REPORTED COMMUNISTS GUNNERS FIRED 314 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE INTO THE BESIEGED BORDER RANGER CAMP AT TONG LE CHAN, 50 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON, WHICH HAS BEEN SURROUNDED SINCE FEB. 26. SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMMAND SPOKESMAN LT. COL. LE TRUNG KIEN SAID FOUR RANGERS WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.)

THE KHMER ROUGE (CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS) SUNDAY REDOUBLED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY DESPITE 25 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF SATURATION BOMBING RAIDS BY AMERICAN B52 BOMBERS AND F111 FIGHTER JETS. WELL- INFORMED MILITARY SOURCES SAID THE U. S. BOMBING RAIDS HAVE FAILED TO HALT THE CURRENT COMMUNIST PUSH. NO CEASE- FIRE EXISTS IN CAMBODIA.

THE KHMER ROUGE FIRED 50 82- MM. MORTAR SHELLS INTO TAKEO SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN SUNDAY AND THEN GROUND TROOPS STRUCK AT THE DEFENSES.

THE HIGH COMMAND SAID EARLY SUNDAY A PITCHED BATTLE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST FORCES HAS BEEN RAGING FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS AROUND THE TOWN OF STUNG CHHAY, 49 MILES SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH.

FIELD REPORTS SAID A FIERCE SUNDAY MORNING ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT LINES ON HIGHWAY 1, 15 MILES SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, CONTINUED FOR MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS. AT LEAST TWO GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND 34 WOUNDED.

THE COMMUNISTS NOW HOLD A 17- MILE STRETCH OF HIGHWAY 1, RUNNING TO THE EMBATTLED MEKONG RIVER NAVAL BASE OF NEAK LUONG, PLUS ANOTHER 60 MILES OF ROAD BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND THE VIETNAMESE BORDER.

RIVER CONVOYS BEARING DESPERATELY NEEDED SUPPLIES OF FOOD, AMMUNITION AND PETROLEUM TO PHNOM PENH HAVE BEEN HALTED JUST INSIDE THE VIETNAMESE BORDER SINCE LAST MONDAY BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF AMBUSH.

WASHINGTON (UPI)-- DEFENSE SECRETARY ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON WARNED HANOI SUNDAY THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE CEASE- FIRE AGREEMENT COULD RESULT IN A RESUMPTION OF U. S. MINING AND BOMBING OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HEARTLAND.
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RICHARDSON LISTED THESE AND OTHER U. S. MILITARY MEASURES USED IN THE PAST AS " POSSIBILITIES" STILL OPEN TO THE UNITED STATES, AND INDICATED THEY WERE THE OPTIONS PRESIDENT NIXON HAD IN MIND WHEN HE CAUTIONED NORTH VIETNAM RECENTLY ABOUT THE " SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" OF CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE- FIRE.

INTERVIEWED ON TELEVISION (MEET THE PRESS-- NBC), RICHARDSON ALSO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION' S AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE BOMBING COMMUNIST TARGETS IN CAMBODIA TWO MONTHS AFTER SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT RESTED ON PROVISIONS IN THE ACCORD FOR EXTENDING THE CEASE- FIRE THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA.

" THE OTHER SIDE HAS ONLY TO CARRY OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS, AND U. S. SUPPORT-- AND OF COURSE IT IS ONLY AIR SUPPORT--- CAN CEASE," HE SAID.

RICHARDSON SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE AIR RAIDS OVER CAMBODIA, BECAUSE " THIS IS IN EFFECT A FOLLOWUP, IN A SMALL AND LIMITED WAY, OF WHAT WE WERE DOING BEFORE THE CEASE- FIRE."

NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE PROTESTED THE CAMBODIAN BOMBING, CLAIMING THE PRESIDENT HAS NO CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO ORDER IT NOW THAT ALL U. S. FORCES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM VIETNAM.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD SAID SATURDAY THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT LEGISLATION INTENDED TO CUT OFF ALL FUNDS FOR THE RAIDS.

RICHARDSON SAID NORTH VIETNAMESE INFILTRATION OF MEN AND SUPPLIES INTO SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE THE CEASE- FIRE WENT INTO EFFECT JAN. 27 WAS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT, AND THAT IT WAS UP TO NIXON TO DECIDE HOW THE UNITED STATES WOULD RESPOND.

" WOULD WE BE INCORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT AMONG THE MEANINGFUL OPTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE SHOULD THE PRESIDENT DECIDE THAT THE SITUATION IS GETTING OUT OF HAND, WOULD BE SUCH THINGS AS RENEWED MINING OF THE PORTS OF NORTH VIETNAM
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OR RENEWED BOMBING OF MILITARY TARGETS IN THE HANOI- HAIPHONG AREA?" HE WAS ASKED.

" I WOULDN' T CARE TO SPECULATE," RICHARDSON REPLIED, " BUT YOU HAVE CERTAINLY IDENTIFIED AMONG THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT

COULD BE DONE. ONE COULD INCLUDE ANY OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN DONE IN THE PAST."

" IF YOU ARE IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION, YOU WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE AS POSSIBILITIES ANY OR ALL OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN DONE BY WAY OF U. S. AIR ACTION OR OTHER INTERDICTION ACTION IN THE PAST, " RICHARDSON SAID.

TWICE IN TWO WEEKS, THE PRESIDENT WARNED OF U. S. COUNTER MEASURES IF THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED TO VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT. LAST THURSDAY NIGHT, HE CITED AS " PROBLEM AREAS" COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS FOR AN ACCOUNTING OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN INDOCHINA, WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS FROM LAOS AND CAMBODIA AND COMMUNIST INFILTRATION INTO SOUTH VIETNAM.

" THE LEADERS OF NORTH VIETNAM SHOULD HAVE NO DOUBT AS TO THE CONSEQUENCES IF THEY FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE AGREEMENT," NIXON SAID. END QUOTE.
RUSH

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